



Preakness Healthcare Center

A Legacy of Caring since 1929

Update, April 1, 2022
Celebrating National Arab American Heritage Month

Please Note: This Update is posted on the Passaic County website and distributed through the Constant Contact email group for families who have elected to provide their email address and is distributed to all staff. Our Social Workers and Therapeutic Recreation staff distribute the Update to residents who wish to receive it.

Since the last Update, there has not been a positive COVID test result for a resident or staff. The last positive test result was on March 9, 2022. We continue to follow all precautionary infection prevention measures and regulatory requirements.

The NJ Department of Health has directed nursing facilities to initiate plans to provide the appropriate boosters to residents in accordance with the CDC updated recommendations to allow certain immunocompromised individuals and people over the age of 50 who received an initial booster dose at least four months ago to be eligible for another mRNA booster to increase their protection against severe disease from COVID-19. The CDC recommends that adults who received a primary vaccine and booster dose of Johnson & Johnson's Janssen COVID-19 vaccine at least four months ago may receive a second booster dose using an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccines will be offered on-site with the consent of the resident and/or legal representative or designated representative. Vaccine questions or messages may be left on voicemail **973-585-2145**. Your call will be returned by a nursing supervisor.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently issued Memorandum QSO-20-38-NH with additional policy and regulatory revisions related to long-term care facility testing requirements. The Memorandum replaces the term "vaccinated" with "up-to-date with all recommended COVID-19 vaccine doses" including any booster dose(s) when eligible. In accordance with NJ Executive Directive #290, staff who do not have an approved religious or medical exemption must be "up-to-date" by April 11, 2022 or within three weeks of becoming eligible for a booster dose, whichever is later.

As of April 1, 2022, our COVID-19 vaccination rates are as follows:

- 95% of staff are fully vaccinated.
- 95% of staff who are eligible for a booster received a booster and are up-to-date.
- 92% of residents are fully vaccinated.
- 89% of residents who are eligible for a booster received a booster and are up-to-date.

Following COVID protocols for resident gatherings, Fr. Jim Moss has resumed in-person Catholic mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the main dining room at 2:00 pm. Sunday mass is offered, virtually, at 11:00 am on Preakness Channel 64. In addition, masses will be offered at 2:00 pm in the main dining room for residents on:

- Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022

- Holy Thursday, April 14, 2022
- Good Friday, April 15, 2022
- Easter Sunday, April 17, 2022

Sr. Pat Avicoli is arranging a Seder for Passover and we will advise residents of the scheduled date/time.

As we adjust to a new “normal” way of life, we have resumed shopping trips and musical performances with entertainers. Until further notice, all resident activities and gatherings are limited to resident participation without visitors present.

With warmer weather anticipated, pets may visit by appointment, outdoors, in the entrance patio. Pet visiting hours are 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Please contact Alina Zalenski, Director of Therapeutic Recreation at 973-585-2124 or by email at azalenski@passaiccountynj.org to obtain the Pet Visitation policy and pet information forms and schedule a pet visit.

Please join me in congratulating Perla Paguntalan, RN, BSN on her promotion to Assistant Nursing Supervisor, Night Shift.

Please welcome Christina Kykenga, LCSW, Social Worker. She brings to our residents her experience in the areas of geriatrics and mental health.

If you have an urgent call or complaint, please call Preakness Healthcare Center Security staff at 973-317-7023 and your call will be directed to the appropriate person. In addition, Dr. Geoffrey Mugalu, LNHA, Assistant Executive Director may be reached at 973-585-2113, Daniel Nasulme, RN, BSN, Director of Nursing may be reached at 973-585-1409 or Aleyamma John, RN, BSN, Assistant Director of Nursing may be reached at 862-345-5911 to address any concerns.

As always, many thanks for the work of our staff, their sacrifices, and the continued support we receive during these challenging and emotional times. And, special thanks for the understanding from our residents and their families as the regulatory directives and protocols for COVID continue to evolve.

Preakness Strong Heroes Continue to Work Here!

Sincerely,

Lucinda Corrado, LNHA
Executive Director